

## Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /165 W

----- 108899

R 121449Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0809

INFO USINT ALGIERS PWYP

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASYX LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1547

WGMO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY

SUBJECT: EGYPT-LIBYA RELATIONS

REF: CAIRO 3916

1. EGYPTIAN CHARGE INFORMS ME THAT RECENT VISITS TO TRIPOLI BY TUNISIAN FONMIN MASMOUDI, SYRIAN MINISTER OF CULTURE KAYYALI, AND YASIR ARAFAT, DID NOT RELATE TO EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT ASAD'S VISITS OF DECEMBER 9-10 TO TRIPOLI AND LATER AT CAIRO WERE FOR PURPOSES OF MEDIATING BETWEEN QADHAFI AND SADAT. HE EXPECTS LIBIVAN RELATIONS OFFICE AT CAIRO TO BE RESTAFFED WITHIN A FEW DAYS, BUT OTHERWISE PROFESSES NOT TO KNOW DETAILS OF "THE PROGRESS BEING MADE".

2. THERE IS NO SIGN WITHIN LARG MEDIA OF ANY SOFTENING OF QADHAFI'S OPPOSITION TO THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AND THE WHOLE IDEA OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. IN FACT, CONFIDENTIAL  
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ONE OR TWO RECENT LARG MEDIA COMMENTARIES HAVE REACHED NEW HEIGHTS OF ABUSE NOT ONLY OF ARAB STATES WILLING TO

TALK TO THE ISRAELIS BUT OF THE SPONSORS AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE PERSONALLY. I WILL PROTEST THE REFERENCES TO THE SECRETARY.

3, COMMENT: EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS MAY BE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING PATCHED UP; THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS ON BOTH SIDES THAT REQUIRE A MODUS VIVENDI. THESE INTERESTS ARE FAR LARGER ON THE LIBYAN THAN ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE, YET QADHAFI IS APPARENTLY UNYIELDING IN HIS ZEALOTRY. HAVE IMPRESSION HE STANDS TO LOSE EVEN MORE STATURE AMONG ARABS--AFTER HIS FAILURE TO GET EGYPT/LIBYA UNION, TO TAKE A CLEAR POSITION ON OCTOBER WAR, AND TO ATTEND ARAB SUMMIT AT ALGIERS--IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE CONVENES AND RESULTS IN EVEN MODEST AGREEMENTS. ON OTHER HAND, IF IT BREAKS DOWN QADHAFI WILL BE VINDICATED IN EYES OF MANY ARABS AND HIS BRAND OF NASSERISM MAY WELL SURGE TO THE FORE WITH RENEWED VIRULENCE.  
JOSIF

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## Message Attributes

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